

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-07 AID-01 DRC-01 RSC-01

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, CE

SUBJ: CODEL HARTKE

1. DURING SHORT VISIT TO SRI LANKA JAN 24-26, SEN HARTKE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WIDE RANGE OF SENIOR GSL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING ACTING PM AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND INTERNAL TRADE, OTHER CABINET MEMBERS AND OFFICIALS. ACTING MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND AMBASSADOR GAVE DINNERS IN HIS HONOR. HE ALSO MET PRES GOPALLAWA AT PERFORMANCE OF DAN WAGONER DANCERS, WHICH CAME UNTER CU'S CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS PROGRAM.

2. DURING TALKS, WHICH WERE VERY GOOD, CEYLONSE MADE CLEAR THEIR DESIRE TO INCREASE NON-TRADITIONAL EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USG WOULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. SENATOR LAID STRESS ON NEED FOR INCENTIVES TO PRIVATE INVESTMENT, BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN, IF CEYLONSE ECONOMY IS TO PROGRESS RAPIDLY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ISSUANCE OF GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPERS, WITHOUT OTHER POSITIVE ACTIONS, WOULD NOT SOLVE PROBLEMS OF OBTAINING RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT.

3. SEN HARTKE INDICATED HE WOULD LOOK INTO ASSISTANCE FOR CEYLONSE ON TWO MATTERS. WHEN GSL OFFICIALS TOLD HIM THAT THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE OBTAIN SUFFICEINT SOYBEAN SEED FOR USE IN SRI LANKA, SENATOR SAID HE THOUGH PURDUE UNIVERSITY MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN PROVIDING SOYBEAN SEEDS AND TECHNICAL ADVICE TO

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DEVELOP THIS NEW (FOR SRI LANKA) CROP. SENATOR ALSO

EXPRESSED INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND SRI LANKA. CEYLONSE INDICATED DESIRE TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESTORATION ACTIVITIES. SENATOR SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST IN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MONEY FROM AMERICAN FOUNDATIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE BUT WOULD NEED TO RECEIVE LETTER FROM GSL CONTAINING SUCH REQUEST. EMBASSY WILL PURUSE QUESTION OF LETTER FROM GSL.

4. WE BELIEVE HARTKE VISIT TO SRI LANKA WAS SUCCESSFUL AND USEFUL. FEW MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TRAVEL TO SRI LANKA, AND SEN HARTKE'S VISIT HAD SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF REFLECTING CONTINUING US INTEREST IN THIS COUNTRY.
VAN HOLLEN

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